REMARKS (37 CFR 1.111)

Original claims 24 – 41, 75 - 90 and new claims 121 – 141 are pending. The title of the invention has been changed to better describe the present subject matter, and a specific cross-reference to the related applications and microfiche appendix has been inserted as well.

The pending claims are presented in the present application as a result of a restriction requirement issued by the Examiner on December 14, 1999 in related application serial no. 09/173,853, and are directed to the species identified as Group II therein.

The claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons:

(1) <u>Original independent claim 24</u> has been amended to recite that the operator:

"… can dynamically select such personal parameters from said menu and express input data in a visual form in said preference field, said input data having data characteristics based on a physical placement and arrangement of any identified personal parameters in said preference field…;"

This feature is not taught or suggested in the art, so the Applicant submits that the claim and its dependent claims should be allowable. Some of the dependent claims were amended to correct for minor reference errors, and/or to conform them to the revised language of claim 24.

(2) <u>Original independent claim 75</u> is also amended and is directed to another aspect of the invention which permits a user to create a "data picture" based on the "personal parameters" being "ranked in an order of importance" in the preference field. This limitation is expressed s follows:

"…permitting the user to move any of said parameters to said preference field so as to identify in visual form any of such user's personal parameters associated with the transaction; and

generating a data picture by visually displaying said personal parameters ranked in an order of importance to the user…"

This is not shown or suggested by the prior art, so this claim and its dependent claims (76 – 90) are believed to be allowable at this time.
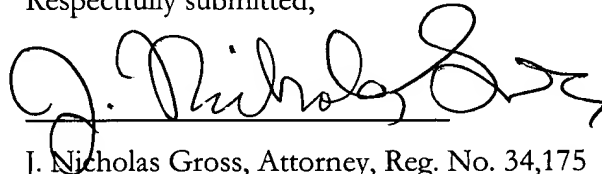
(3) <u>New dependent claim 121</u> depends from claim 24, and merely refers to the fact that the input data can be used as a query for locating other information, i.e., as in the case of a typical search engine. This claim should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 24, and for the reason that the prior art does not teach this kind of mechanism. The same analysis holds true for <u>new dependent claim 122</u>.

(4) <u>New independent claim 123</u> is directed to more specific implementations of the preferred embodiments of the invention. The claim, and its dependent claims (124 - 140) are believed to distinguish over the prior art for a number of reasons, and Applicants believe such will be apparent to the Examiner after a careful inspection.

(5) <u>New independent method claim 140</u> recites a method practiced by certain prefererred embodiments, and, again is believed to be sufficiently distinctive so as to merit allowance at this time.

The claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and thus early allowance of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 31, 2001

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service by Express Mail Label No. EL009858136US, to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, this 31st day of August 2001.

VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

24. (Amended) An electronic interface for permitting an operator to identify parameters
concerning an action and/or transaction, the interface comprising:

   a menu providing a set of parameters available for selection by the operator, said
menu occupying a first portion of the interface;

   a preference field occupying a second portion of the interface for visually displaying
any identified personal parameters selected by the operator for the particular
operator transaction from said set of parameters;

   wherein the operator can dynamically select such personal parameters [in] from said
menu and [move them to said preference field] express input data in a visual form in
said preference field, said input data having data characteristics based on a physical
placement and arrangement of any identified personal parameters in said preference
field ; and

   further wherein said [personal parameters are] input data is stored in a transaction
record form usable by a computing system.

25. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the personal parameters describe one or
more mental impressions of such transaction.

26. (Amended) The interface of claim 24, wherein said parameters are arranged and
placed in said preference field [selected and moved] by such operator selecting and
moving said parameters along a distance spanning from said menu to said preference
field by physically manipulating an electronic pointing device.

27. (Original) The interface of claim 26, wherein said distance is less than approximately
half the width of said interface as seen by the operator.

28. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein said transaction record form includes
numeric data values, but is generated without numeric data input by the operator.

29. (Original) The interface of claim 28, wherein said numeric data values are based on
the physical location of said parameters as placed by the operator in said preference
field.

30. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein said identified personal parameters can be ranked in relative importance by the operator based on their location in said preference field.

31. (Original) The interface of claim 30, wherein a relative ranking between data parameters can be changed by the user by altering a relative physical arrangement of said data parameters on said parameter canvas.

32. (Original) The interface of claim 30, wherein said preference field includes a gradient visible to the operator for assisting in the ranking of said parameters.

33. (Original) The interface of claim 30, wherein said parameters can be ranked by both a relative horizontal and vertical location in said preference field.

34. (Original) The interface of claim 32, further wherein said preference field conveys visible feedback information when the operator is arranging said parameters.

35. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein when the interface is invoked by the operator, an initial proposed arrangement of parameters is presented to the operator in said preference field, which initial proposed arrangement can be modified by the operator.

36. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein said parameters include factors associated with an operator's reasons for performing or engaging in a particular activity.

37. (Amended) The interface of claim [22] 24, wherein said parameters include factors associated with lessons learned by a user concerning an event.

38. (Amended) The interface of claim [22] 24, wherein said transaction record form can be retrieved and modified by the operator at a later time.

39. (Amended) The interface of claim [22] 24, wherein said parameters can be customized by the operator.

40. (Amended) The interface of claim [22] 24, wherein said interface also provides a visual comparison between input data in said transaction record form and other transaction record forms.

41. (Amended) The interface of claim [22] 24, wherein said interface also provides visual feedback to such operator based on an evaluation of said input data in said transaction record form.

75. (Amended) A method for permitting a user to identify personal parameters concerning an action and/or transaction to a computer program, the method comprising the steps of:

> providing a menu of one or more parameters available for selection by the user, said menu being displayed in a first portion of an interface visible to the user; and

> providing a preference field occupying a second portion of the interface visible to the user; and

> permitting the user to move any of said parameters to said preference field so as to identify in visual form any of such user's personal parameters associated with the transaction; and

> generating a data picture by visually displaying said personal parameters ranked in an order of importance to the user; and

> storing said personal parameters are stored in a transaction record form usable by the computer program.

76. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein all of the user's personal parameters are captured using a single data picture.

77. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein all of the user's personal parameters are captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

78. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein the personal parameters describe one or more mental impressions of such action and/or transaction.

79. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein said parameters associated with the transaction can be selected and moved by said user along a distance spanning from said menu to said preference field by physically manipulating an electronic pointing device.

80. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein said distance is less than approximately half the width of said interface as seen by the user.

81. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein said transaction record includes numeric data values, but is generated without numeric data input by the user.

82. (Original) The method of claim 81, wherein said numeric data values are based on the physical location of said parameters as placed by the user in said preference field.

83. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein said parameters can be ranked according to their physical arrangement in said preference field.

84. (Original) The method of claim 75, further including a step of providing a gradient visible to the user for assisting in the ranking of said parameters.

85. (Original) The method of claim 75, further including a step of providing visible feedback information when the user arranges said parameters.

86. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein said data parameters can be ranked by both a relative horizontal and vertical location in said preference field.

87. (Original) The method of claim 75, further including a step of presenting an initial data picture to the user in said preference fields, said initial data picture being based on prior data pictures previously entered by the user.

88. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein said parameters include factors associated with a user's reasons for performing or engaging in a particular activity.

89. (Original) The method of claim 75, further including a step of providing a visual comparison between said data picture and other data pictures.

90. (Original) The method of claim 75, further including a step of providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of said data input.